



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM4328

Date Posted: February 23, 2006

Related CR #: 4328

Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for April 2006

Key Words

MM4328, CR4328, R864CP, NCD, Software, Determinations, Laboratory

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, suppliers, and providers billing Medicare Carriers and/or Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is April 1, 2006.
- The implementation date is April 3, 2006.
- MLN Matters article MM4328 is based on Change Request (CR) 4328, which announces the implementation of changes to the list of codes associated with the 23 negotiated laboratory NCDs, and the update of the laboratory edit module for changes in the laboratory NCD code lists for April 2006.
- In accordance with the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Section 4554), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) entered into negotiated rulemaking proceedings to develop NCDs for clinical diagnostic laboratory services.
- Under the negotiations, CMS developed 23 laboratory NCDs, and these NCDs are different than most other Medicare NCDs in that they include lists of International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification codes.
- All codes are included on one of the following lists:
 - Covered codes;
 - Not covered codes; and
 - Codes that do not support medical necessity.
- The NCDs were published under the Administrative Procedures Act in the Federal Register of November 23, 2001 (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a011123c.html).

- The list of 23 laboratory NCDs is included in the *Additional Information* section of MLN Matters article MM4328.
- Nationally uniform software was developed by Computer Sciences Corporation and incorporated in the shared systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs are processed uniformly throughout the nation effective January 1, 2003.
- The laboratory edit module for the NCDs is updated quarterly as necessary to reflect ministerial coding updates and substantive changes to the NCDs developed through the NCD process.
- CMS updates the NCD code list quarterly as necessary to incorporate new codes, correct ministerial errors, incorporate the results of Coding Analysis published elsewhere on this site, and incorporate reconsideration of the NCDs that alter covered indications.
- The quarterly updates are published in the NCD Coding Policy Manual, and the current and previous coding manuals can be downloaded from this site.
- The individual NCDs can be accessed from the lab index included at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/index_section.asp?ncd_sections=40 on the CMS website.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4328.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R864CP.pdf>

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a011123c.html

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp#TopOfPage>

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CoverageGenInfo/04_LabNCDs.asp